

# Defence secretary of Sri Lanka threatens "Daily Mirror" editor

(LeN-2007 April 17, 11.30 pm)

Defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse has made a serious death threat to the editor of the Daily Mirror news paper Champika Liyanarachchi, via phone last morning.

He has made the threat due to a headline story which the paper carried stating that heavily armed Karuna Faction members were loitering in Ampara and that the law implementers seemed to be blind. The Defence secretary has said that the Daily Mirror editor was digging her own grave by writing articles criticizing the government and him. He has also said that if the Karuna faction starts hunting her down the government will be helpless in such a situation.

On several previous occasions the editor of the newspaper was criticised by several government officials.

When 'LeN' questioned regarding the threats to the Daily Mirror editor media spokesperson of the Karuna Faction Asad Maulana said that journalists will not be harmed by their party since they are a democratic party, and that their military power will be used only against terrorists.

He added that his party nor the leader has no intention of harming the Daily Mirror editor because there is no reason for them to do so if the paper is publishing accurate information.

Asad Maulana said that Champika Liyanarachchi even spoke to his leader regarding the threat made to her.